

## ***FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** June 5, 2013

**Agenda Item:** Addition to Pine Grove Pond FAS

**Division:** Fisheries

**Action Needed:** Endorsement

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 minutes

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### **Background**

In 2010, the department acquired the 13-acre Pine Grove Pond FAS property through donation. Pine Grove Pond, located near Kalispell, is a very popular children's fishing pond with approximately 10,000 visitor days each year. The Whitefish Credit Union owns a narrow strip of land that is located between the Pine Grove Pond FAS and the Whitefish River. The parcel is a part of a larger piece of property that the Credit Union intends to sell. The Credit Union is interested in donating the 7 +/- acre parcel to the department. Acquisition of this parcel would enable the public to gain access to the Whitefish River from the FAS.

### **Public Involvement Process & Results**

There has been no public involvement to date on acquiring this parcel. Upon gaining the commission's endorsement to proceed with this acquisition, the department would conduct an environmental review and solicit public comments.

### **Alternatives and Analysis**

The commission's endorsement would enable the department to pursue the acquisition of this parcel through a donation. The property would provide additional public access to the Whitefish River for angling and other recreation pursuits. Alternatively, the commission could deny the department's request for an endorsement.

If the donation is not accepted by FWP, the property would likely be sold with the larger remaining parcel. It is unknown whether another owner would allow public access to the Whitefish River from the FAS.

### **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends that the commission endorse the department's request to pursue acquiring this parcel through a donation by the Whitefish Credit Union. The public would gain a new opportunity to access the Whitefish River from an already popular fishing access site.

### **Proposed Motion**

I move to endorse FWP's request to pursue the Whitefish Credit Union's offer to donate a parcel of land adjoining the Pine Grove Pond fishing access site.